DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

Noting that some schools have adopted practices or policies that encourage parents to become more involved in their children's school activities and events, this statistical report (based on the National Household Education Survey) details the level and character of parental involvement in school activities. Findings highlighted are: (1) parents of more than 80 percent of students reported attending a general meeting or a scheduled meeting with their child's teachers; (2) parents of black and Hispanic students were more likely than parents of white students to help their children with homework three or more times a week; (3) parents' participation in school activities such as meetings or events was associated with students' educational achievement; and (4) parents in households with two biological or adoptive parents were more likely than those in single parent homes to attend school meetings or events. The report includes tables of data indicating the percentage of students who parents reported participating in school activities and helping with homework, by selected characteristics, and by type of involvement. (HTH)

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Parent involvement in school-related activities

One of the National Education Goals calls for an increase in parent involvement in children's education. This involvement requires an active partnership between the parent and the school. Some schools have adopted practices or policies that encourage parents to become more involved in their children's school activities and events. These practices give parents the opportunity to actively participate in their children's education and encourage their children to participate in school activities and events.

- In 1996, parents of more than 80 percent of students reported attending a general meeting or a scheduled meeting with their child's teacher. Sixty-six percent of students had parents who reported attending a school event, while 40 percent had parents who reported volunteering or serving on a school committee.
- Parents of black and Hispanic students were more likely than parents of white students to help their children with homework three or more times a week.
- Parents' participation in school activities, such as attending general meetings or school events and volunteering at school, was associated with their educational attainment. As parents' educational attainment increased, so did their rates of participation in school activities.
- Parents of children who lived in households with two biological or adoptive parents were more likely than parents of children who lived in households with one biological or adoptive parent to attend general school meetings or school events, act as a volunteer, or serve on a school committee.

Percentage of students whose parents reported participating in their child's school activities and helping their child with homework, by selected characteristics: 1996

	Participated in school activities[1]				Helped with homework[2]		
Selected characteristics	Attended general meeting	Attended scheduled meeting with teacher	Attended school event	Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee	Never or less than once a week	1–2 times a week	3 or more times a week
Total	**87.8**	**84.0**	**66.1**	**39.6**	**26.7**	**35.2**	**38.2**
Race/ethnicity							
White	88.2	83.0	70.9	44.5	28.2	37.0	34.9
Black	86.3	86.5	56.0	29.5	21.9	30.0	48.1
Hispanic	87.3	85.1	54.8	27.7	25.5	31.2	43.3
Parents' highest education level							
Less than high school diploma	81.3	83.7	42.2	18.3	28.8	30.1	41.1
High school diploma or GED	85.1	84.4	59.5	31.1	26.4	34.2	39.4
Some college/vocational/technical	87.4	83.6	68.4	40.2	26.4	35.8	37.8
Bachelor's degree	92.9	84.2	75.6	52.2	25.4	38.8	35.8
Graduate/professional school	92.7	83.8	81.0	56.8	27.9	35.1	37.0
Family structure							
Two biological or adoptive parents	89.1	83.9	70.7	47.6	26.5	34.9	38.5
One biological or adoptive parent	86.2	85.0	59.4	29.3	26.1	34.4	39.5
One biological/adoptive and one step parent	85.8	82.3	62.9	27.0	26.6	39.5	33.9
Other relatives	81.5	81.8	50.4	21.3	32.5	33.2	34.3

[1] Questions were asked of parents with students in preprimary school through grade 12.

[2] Questions were asked of parents with students in grades 1–12.

NOTE: Included in the totals but not shown separately are other racial/ethnic groups and types of family structures. Parents of ungraded students or children who were home schooled were not included in this analysis.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).

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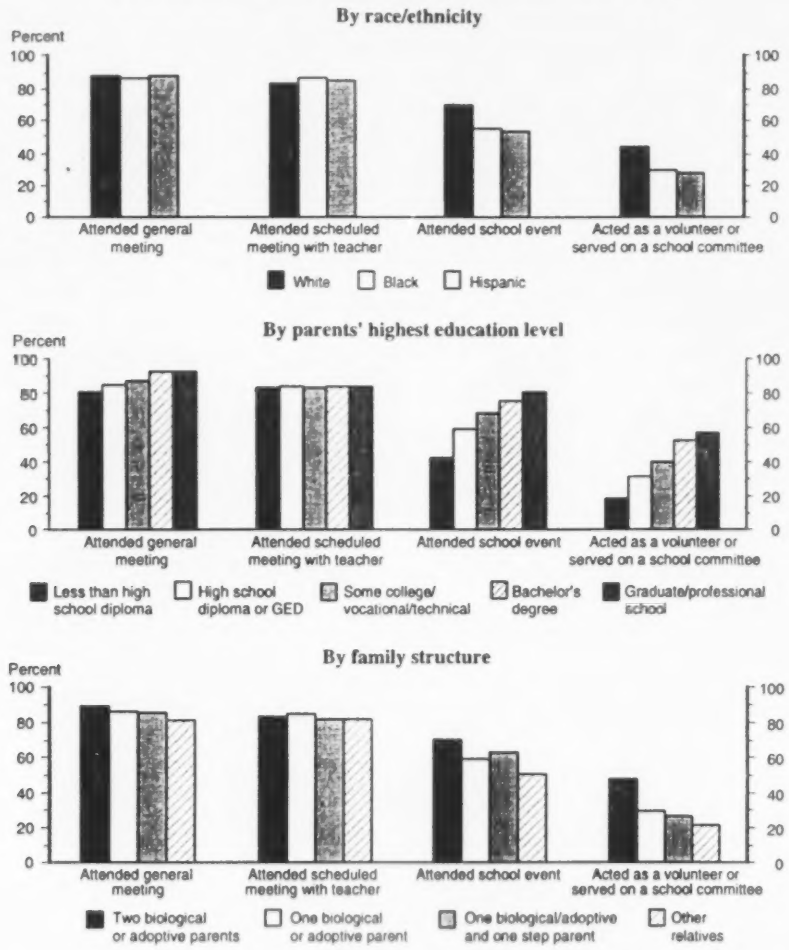
Percentage of students whose parents reported participating in their child's school activities, by type of involvement and selected characteristics: 1996



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).

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